

# W<sup>NB</sup> 2 editorial

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REFERENCE  
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INDIANA ROOM

December 13, 1968

Ten Vigo County funeral directors recently informed city and county officials they will discontinue all ambulance service after December 31st. This is a serious situation in view of the fact that they presently handle approximately 85% of all local ambulance calls. They cite rising costs plus new federal restrictions as reasons for getting out of the ambulance business.

The problem is not unique to the Terre Haute area. It's nationwide. We've been more fortunate than most communities in that funeral directors have furnished this vital service for as long as they have.

Several alternatives have been proposed to overcome the problem. One is that the two hospitals run ambulances. Another is that it become a municipal function.

We believe the most logical setup would be for a reputable, private firm to operate the service under a city-county awarded contract or franchise. There are several companies that specialize in nothing but ambulance service. We're told their ambulances are modern, contain the latest in life saving equipment and are manned by highly trained personnel.

Adequate and dependable ambulance service, both private and emergency, is an absolute must. With a view toward achieving this end, we urge local officials to explore thoroughly the possibility of contracting for such service with a competent private concern.

John T. Gelder, Jr.

